

San Diego DX Club Bulletin

June 2021



MEETING PROGRAM: To be announced

MEETING NOTICE

Wednesday, June 23rd at 6:30 P.M. PDT

This will be a 'hybrid' meeting, using the Zoom conferencing application plus an in-person meeting. The new location is Elijah's Restaurant at 7061 Clairemont Mesa Blvd (just east of the 805)

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From the Prez . . .

Pat, WA6MHZ

SDDXC Meeting In-Person and on Zoom

Time: Jun 23, 2021 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Since this will be a combo meeting with an in-person component and an online component, here are some additional guidelines for in-person attendees:

Face masks and vaccinations: Effective June 15th, 2021, updated guidelines for the San Diego County have been released. Following those guidelines, fully vaccinated people need NOT wear masks in most situations. If NOT vaccinated, you MUST wear a mask in the restaurant *except* when seated at the table in the dining area. Unless the restaurant requires 'everyone' to wear masks, it is the honor system - please wear your mask if you are not fully vaccinated. If you are uncomfortable with the thought that an unvaccinated person might not wear a mask, you can choose to attend via Zoom until a future date.

Several club members have raised concerns regarding the increased risk to all of us if anyone attends this meeting who is not fully vaccinated (14 days or more after final dose) against Covid 19. Therefore, the SDDXC board members have decided to make vaccination a requirement for attendance. We will rely on your honesty that you are vaccinated, since anyone who wanted to print a forged CDC card easily could do so.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83577130452?
pwd=akpTWnhweld3b0VsckFxoVF0T3FtQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83577130452?pwd=akpTWnhweld3b0VsckFxoVF0T3FtQT09)

Meeting ID: 835 7713 0452

Passcode: 865692

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,83577130452#,,,,*865692# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,83577130452#,,,,*865692# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 835 7713 0452

Passcode: 865692

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbyKm6kdFG>

Pat, WA6MHZ



Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Randy, KQ6RS

SDDXC Meeting Minutes, May 26, 2021

Our May meeting was held using the Zoom video conferencing application. We had 19 members and no guests participate.

At 6:36 P.M. Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ called the meeting to order.

Jim Price, K6ZH, was told by the manager of the Kearny Mesa Filippi's that there was the possibility we could use their private room to hold our club meetings on a Tuesday (not our traditional 4th Wednesday of the month). Since this was a change of both the meeting location and meeting date, we took a vote on three motions:

Motion 1: Temporarily suspend the bylaw that regular membership meetings shall normally be held on the fourth Wednesday of each calendar month. This passed unanimously.

Motion 2: Temporarily hold monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month. This passed unanimously.

Motion 3: Hold our monthly meetings at the Kearny Mesa Filippi's. This passed unanimously.

(Update after the meeting – We will not be meeting at the Kearny Mesa Filippi's. Several attempts to make arrangements with the manager were unsuccessful.)

At 7:02 P.M Pat mentioned that Visalia will be held April 8 – 10, 2022.

At 7:10 P.M. we started the roundtable.

At 7:55 P.M. the meeting was adjourned.



Treasurer's Report

Income for May: None

Expenses for May: None

Balance on 6/8/2021 \$6,550.55

Randy, KQ6RS

SDDXC TOP 10

By Glenn, AI6RR



Total Countries Worked on 17 Meters

May 2021	May 2020	Call	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1	1	K6AM	?	329	336	336	
2	2	K6XT	40	316	317	327	
3	4	W6YI	39	304	306	327	+2
4	3	N7CW	40	312	312	326	
5	5	K0XB	40	314	317	318	
6	6	K6ZH	40	291	294	307	
7	7	N6CW	39	?	231	297	
8	8	WB6BFG	39	282	284	293	
9	-	W5BN	?	216	216	284	NEW
10	10	NA6L	39	276	276	281	

Total Countries Worked on 12 Meters

May 2021	May 2020	Call	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1	1	K6AM	?	314	320	322	
2	2	W6YI	39	278	280	301	
3	3	N7CW	40	260	260	300	
4	4	K0XB	39	288	290	292	+1
5	5	K6XT	40	278	280	280	+3
6	6	N6CW	39	?	192	268	
7	7	WB6BFG	40	247	249	263	
8	8	NA6L	39	253	253	261	
9	9	K6ZH	38	239	242	250	
10	10	WN6K	39	220	221	246	+6

Standings are always available on the SDDXC website at [San Diego DX Club \(sddxc.org\)](http://San Diego DX Club (sddxc.org))

SDDXC TOP 10

By Glenn, AI6RR



TOP 20 Total Band Countries Worked

Jun 2021	Jun 2020	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1	1	W6YI	367	2701	2754	2849	+8
2	2	K6XT	360	2744	2803	2813	+25
3	3	K6AM	?	2681	2742	2776	
4	4	N7CW	376	2526	2526	2715	
5	5	N6CW	374	?	2300	2629	
6	6	K0XB	350	2348	2384	2414	
7	7	K6ZH	338	2204	2250	2325	
8	8	NA6L	341	2128	2128	2217	
9	10	W5BN	?	1761	1761	2212	+116
10	11	WB6BFG	321	1855	1865	1975	
11	12	K5OA	321	1721	1916	1928	+68
12	9	WN6K	300	1612	1747	1916	-240
13	-	NE6I	311	1706	1731	1767	NEW
14	13	N6XT	307	1415	1435	1732	
15	16	W6HDG	281	1503	1503	1654	+89
16	14	N6VS	301	1524	1542	1633	
17	15	WB1EAZ	?	1563	1574	1574	-5
18	17	NN6K	226	1513	1539	1539	
19	18	NC6K	?	1261	1274	1365	+100
20	-	N0RR	120	1193	1227	1241	NEW

Glenn, AI6RR

SDDXC Contest Results

By John, K6AM



2020 ARRL SWEEPSTAKES CW CONTEST

CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
MS - HP	ND7K @N6WIN (ops KI6RRN N6MJ N6WIN)	246,792	1,469	84	#1 US/VE
SO - U	N5ZO	224,784	1,338	84	#1 SW DIV, #3 US/VE
SO - HP	K6AR	153,176	934	82	#2 SW DIV
SO - U	NC6K	114,144	696	82	#3 SW DIV
SO - LP	WN6K	64,970	445	73	#5 SW DIV
SO - U	N6KI	36,494	257	71	

John, K6AM

From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



Blenheim Reef – Deleted but Not Forgotten

Since it's June, a time of warmer and longer days, I thought it might be interesting to look more closely at some of the Deleted Entities on the ARRL DXCC list. In the June 2012 edition of the *SDDXC Bulletin* (in an article about Gus Browning, W4BPD), I wrote: "Gus seemed to show up just about everywhere with operations from exotic places like Tromelin Island, Bertaut and Blenheim Reefs (there's a germ of an idea for another story)".

Well, now it's time for that story.

Blenheim Reef (continent: AF, ITU zone: 41, CQ zone: 39, IOTA AF-058), is a small reef in the Chagos archipelago (VQ9) in the Indian Ocean, which was/is partially under water. The Chagos Archipelago is a group of seven atolls comprising 58 individual tropical islands in the Indian Ocean; situated some 500 kilometers (310 mi) due south of the Maldives archipelago. The archipelago is a British Indian Ocean Territory. In addition to Blenheim Reef, IOTA AF-058 the Salomon Island Group (not to be confused with the Solomon Islands (H40) which are in the Coral Sea near Papua New Guinea (P29) and Australia (VK)) AF-058 includes the islands of Coin, Diamant, Moresby, Nelsons, the Peros Banhos Islands, Pierre, Yoyo, Boddam, Passe and Takamaka.

IOTA Group Islands

Group Name:	Salomon group		
Group Ref.:	AF-058	Group islands:	11 Claimed 3.9%
Activated:	Yes	Region:	(N/A)
DXCC Code:	33	DXCC Name:	Chagos Is.
Comments:			
Bearing Fwd/Rev:	N/A	Distance:	N/A (use Settings dialog to change...)
Current activators:			

Group contains:

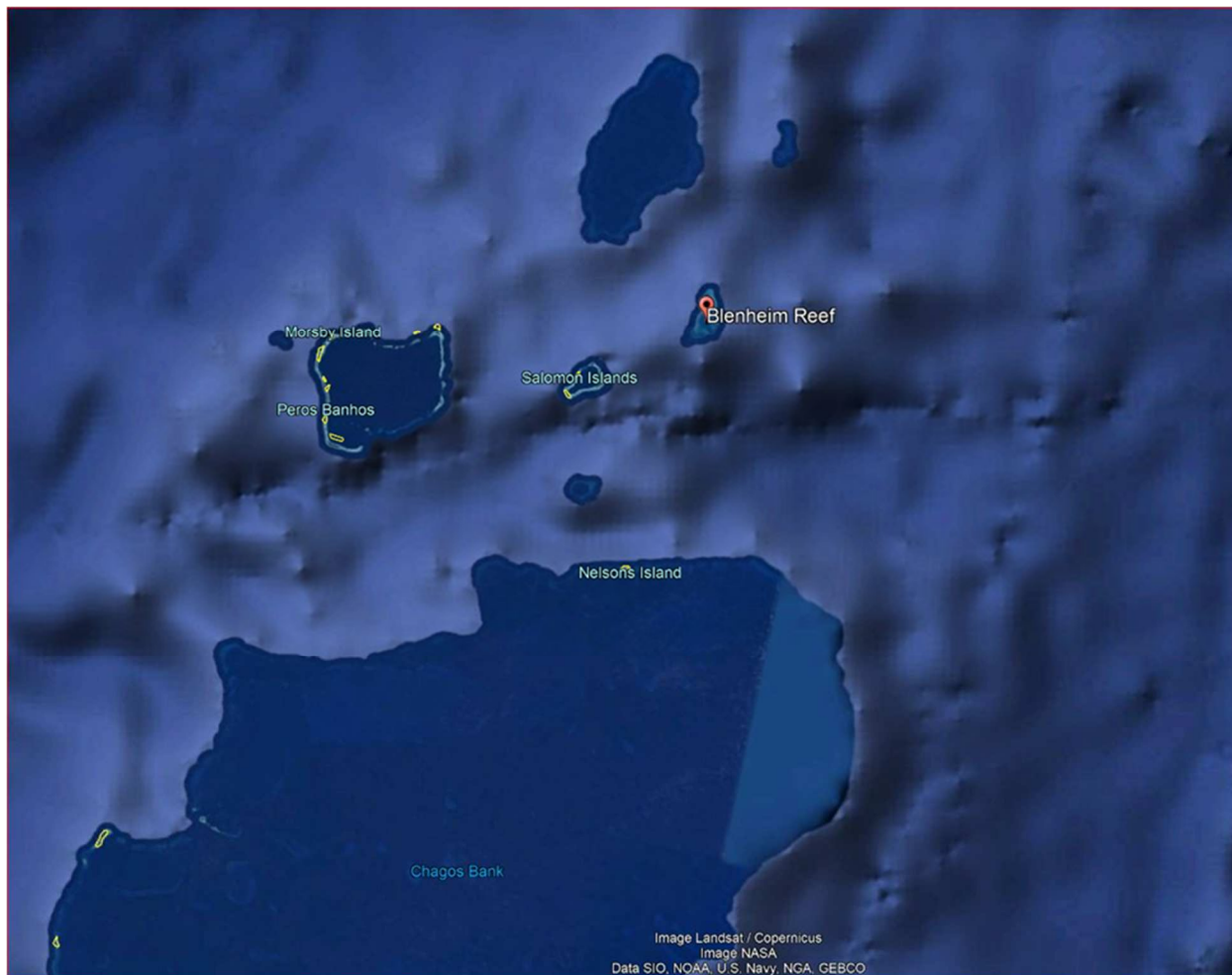
- Blenheim Reef
 - Blenheim Reef
 - Coin
 - Diamant
 - Moresby
 - Nelsons
 - Peros Banhos Islands
 - Pierre

Close

AF-058

AF-058 - Salomon group

Island Name:	Blenheim Reef
Alt. Name:	
Comments:	
Wikipedia extract:	Blenheim Reef is a partly submerged atoll structure in the Chagos Archipelago, Indian Ocean. It includes the coral reef of Baxio Predassa in its southeastern rim, plus another completely submerged part. It is located in the northeastern part of the Chagos ... (continued)



Blenheim Reef includes the coral reef of Baxio Predassa on its southeastern rim, plus another completely submerged part, located in the northeastern part of the Archipelago. It measures almost eleven kilometers by more than four kilometers, with a total area of 36.8 square kilometers, including the lagoon of 8.5 km², the difference being mostly accounted for by the reef flat. On the eastern side there are a few sand cays above the water. The largest of them is East Island, which is not quite 200 meters long and 70 meters wide. The other islands in the group are North, Middle and South. Only a few grasses grow on the island. The lagoon is up to 18 meters deep and encumbered with rock. The fringing coral reef has a wide passage in the southwest. The closest land is Takamaka Island in the Salomon Islands Atoll, about 20 kilometers to the southwest.

The atoll is thought to have been discovered around 1570 by Portuguese sailors, which is why it is also known under its Portuguese name, Baxio Pedassa, a corruption of Baixo Pedrassa. The present name comes from the ship “Blenheim” which discovered the reef on 5 May 1836 during a voyage from London to Bombay.

Guano and phosphate were mined on the island from 1845 to 1860. This venture was then given up due to inadequate transport facilities. Around 1880, the Indian Ocean Fruit Company attempted to plant palm trees on the island, but all seedlings were washed into the sea during a storm. On 29 June 1975, the atoll was incorporated into the Chagos Archipelago and claimed by Mauritius. Before that day, it was not claimed by any nation.

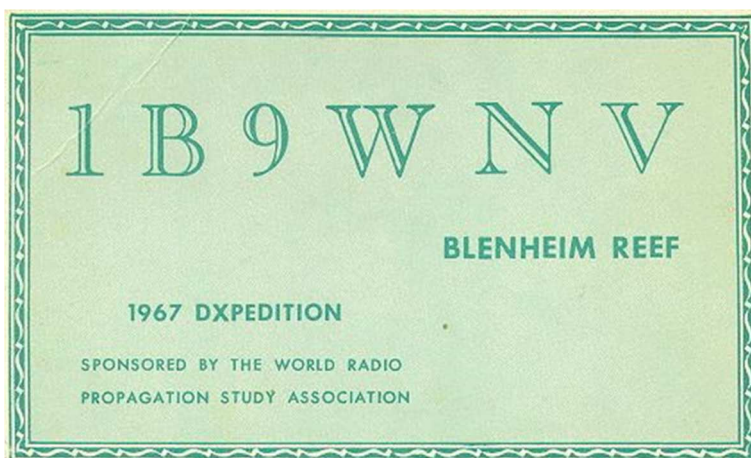
Baxio Predassa is the island that emerges from the eastern rim of the reef. When first surveyed by Robert Moresby, there were many more islands in Baxio Predassa. These have, however, been eroded or submerged and only four islets remain. The group today consists of:

- Ile de l'Est, the largest island and the easternmost island in the atoll. The island has only grasses growing on it, though there was once an unsuccessful attempt to plant palms on the island.
- Ile du Nord, the northernmost island.
- Ile du Sud, the smallest and southernmost islet.
- Ile du Milieu is surrounded by a reef.

Blenheim Reef was first activated by Don Miller, W9WNV in January, 1967 using the call 1B9WNV. QSO's for Blenheim Reef counted as DXCC entities from May 4, 1967 until June 30, 1975. **Since 1B9WNV was QRV in January, 1967, it never should have counted for Blenheim Reef!** Also, the island counted as Chagos at that time, but 1B9WNV didn't count for anything. The prefix appears to be made up, which was not unusual at the time. 1B9WNV should never have counted for DXCC, nevertheless, Blenheim Reef was added to the DXCC list at that time.

The ARRL DXCC list says: "Blenheim Reef, only contacts made May 4, 1967, to June 30, 1975, count for this entity. Contacts made July 1, 1975, and after, count as Chagos Island. (VQ9)."

Blenheim Reef, IOTA AF-058 is part of a very rare group with only 3% of IOTA participants having credit.



1967 DXpedition					
1B9WNV	OPERATOR				Blenheim Reef
DON MILLER - W9WNV					
Equipment: Collins S-Line (32S3, 75S3B)					
Waters Codax Keyer & Accessories					
Electro-Voice microphones					
Call	Date	GMT	MCS	Mode	R(S)T
W8JIN	1-23-67	1356	14	2xSSB	5-9

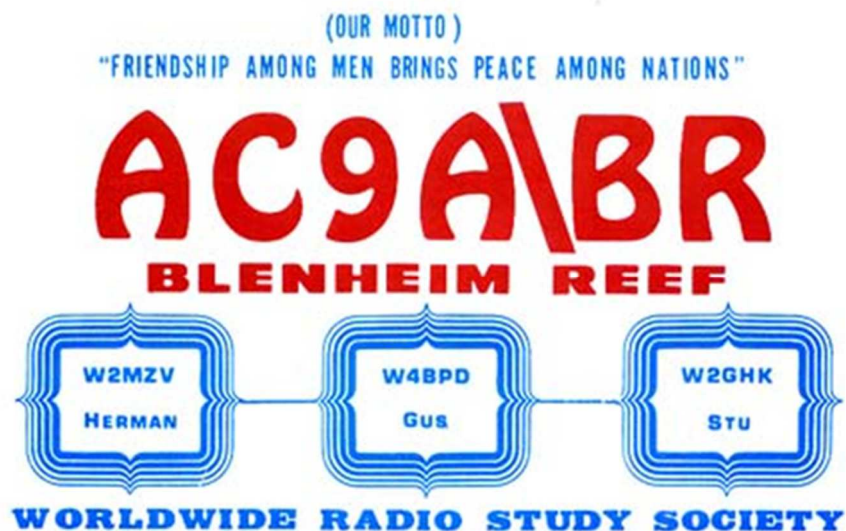
QSL Via W4ECI

Don Miller returned to Blenheim Reef in December, 1967 using the call W9WNV/BR on CW and VQ8CB/A on SSB.

Following his operation as 1B9WNV, Don proceeded to the Laccadive Islands for a short stay as VU2WNV. He returned to the Seychelles, and left from Mahé on February 10, 1967 for Mombasa where he arrived on the 15th. He then left for Mauritius by air. Don was been given the call VQ8CB and said he was on his way to Rodriguez Island, Tromelin Island, St Brandon Island, Geyser Reef, and yet another all time "new one" (a return to Blenheim Reef).



The last activation of Blenheim Reef was in July, 1970 by Gus Browning, W4BPD, using the call AC9A/BR. Gus was joined by W2MZV and W2GHK equipped with a Drake T4XB/R4B with a TH3jr tribander and an 18 AVG vertical.



Blenheim Reef in 1975 was declared to be completely submerged by the ARRL DXCC desk, leading to its deletion from the DXCC list.

DXing was vastly different from 1964 to 1967 than from today. It was a hugely exciting time for DXing, with fantastic expeditions (and unforgettable characters), including Gus Browning, W4BPD, Lloyd Colvin, W6KG and Iris Colvin, W6QL, Danny Weil, VP2VB, Martti Laine, OH2BH, Don Miller W9WNV, the infamous "phony-baloney" DXpeditioner, Romeo Stepanenko, aka Roman Vega, P5RS7, UB5RR, 3W3RR, XYØRR, 1SØRR, etc., Dick McKersher, WØMLY and others.

These intrepid DXpeditioners activated (and claimed to have activated) dozens of new countries, from Sikkim and Tibet to the remote islands and rocks of the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans and on the African continent. In those years, new countries arose, and then disappeared, including Minerva Reef, Serrana Bank, Geyser Reef, Blenheim Reef, Farquar, Aldabra and Desroches. Unlike today's multi-multi DXpeditions these were typically solo operations that were not announced before the operations commenced. There were no clusters, and the Internet hadn't come into existence: you had to tune the bands and LISTEN !!

History has shown that some of the DXpeditions during these Golden Years were not exactly on the up-and-up. For instance, was Gus REALLY on Heard Island? (See *SDDXC Bulletin, June 2012*) to say nothing of the antics by Romeo and Don.

Dr. Don Miller, W9WNV who first activated Blenheim Reef got crosswise with the ARRL (as reported in a special edition of the *West Coast DX Bulletin* dated July 11, 1968). Don filed a lawsuit against the ARRL and John Huntoon, W1RW (ex-W1LVQ), the ARRL General Manager and Editor of *QST* alleging that Don had fibbed about several of his operations. Dr. Miller signed an agreement to withdraw his lawsuit against the League and John Huntoon, "contingent upon ratification of its terms by the Board of Directors and upon action of the Awards Committee to grant credit for certain of his 1968 DXpedition operations which had been properly documented and concerning which the Committee had received no unresolved complaints."

Certain important items belonging to Dr. Miller had apparently been mislaid, including his passport which was of course vital in proving important dates. However, this document was seen by several UK amateurs but did not appear to show that many of the places claimed to have been visited had in fact been visited. W9WNV admitted that the alleged operation from St. Peter and Paul Rocks (PY0XA) took place from a ship located some 1800 miles NW of the Rocks. W1LVQ said "Dr. Miller could remember few, if any, specific details of any of the alleged trips during 1966 and 1967 to Chagos, Blenheim Reef, Laccadive Islands, and Heard Island."

Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD, and his wife Virginia who published the *West Coast DX Bulletin* from 1968 to 1979 wrote:

This is the Law of DXing
That only the strong shall thrive
That surely the weak shall perish
And only the Deserving survive....

Hugh Cassidy is perhaps most well remembered for his admonition to: "Work first, worry later", a DXers creed in those days of "Slims" and before DXCC became a world unto itself, complete with a set of rules and regulations that would cross the eyes of a Philadelphia lawyer.

This is my Blenheim Reef story. And remember: "**DX IS**".

Bob, K9RHY